THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) According to information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), about 10% of youth students are getting higher education in the country.

(c) and (d) It is premature for the submission of proposals for the XI Five Year Plan.

Negative points in reduction of illiterates

1973. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the Education For All, Global Monitoring Report of the UNESCO released in Paris gives India minus points (-1.7) in reducing the number of illiterates among adults above the age of 15 years in the country as India had 27,30,66,000 illiterates in 1990 and the number marginally reduced to 26,84,26,000 in 2004;

(b) whether the number is the highest in the world despite increasing literacy rate from 49.3 per cent in 1990 to 61 per cent in 2004 and tops in gender disparity; and

(c) what are the other main points mentioned about India and the steps taken to improve the position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRA FATMI): (a) and (b) According to EFA Global Monitoring Report of UNESCO, there has been a net decline in the number of illiterates in India from 1990 to 2004 and hence the decline in terms of percentage has been shown as -1.7. Though the number of illiterates in the 15+ age group is the largest, however the gender disparity is more in some countries of South and West Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Arab States etc.

(c) The UNESCO EFA Global Monitoring Report-2007 is not India specific. However, references have been made to India throughout the Report. As per the report India ranks 99th in the list with a composite Education for all Development Index (EDI) of 0.789. Referring to a nation wide sample

on out of school children commissioned under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Programme in 2005, the report says that the number of out of school children has halved from 25 million in 2002 to 13.5 million in 2005.

Several steps have been taken to increase the adult literacy rates and also to enroll out of school children. In order to improve the adult literacy position the National Literacy Mission aims at imparting functional literacy to adult illiterates in the 15—35 age group. Apart from the regular basic literacy and post literacy programmes, an Accelerated Female Literacy Programme has been taken up in low female literacy district in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa and Jharkhand and a Special Literacy Drive is being taken up in 150 low literacy districts of the country to cover residual illiterates. In respect of out of school children, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) seeks universalisation of elementary education as well as universal retention by 2010. The SSA provides for several varieties of interventions, such as opening of new schools, setting up of Education Guarantee Scheme Centres and Alternative & Innovative Education facilities to enhance enrolment, incentives, focus on education of girls and weaker sections of society and, to improve quality of education in schools.

Reduction of seats in technical education

1974. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether students aspiring for technical education would have tougher competition ahead as 11,000 seats have been cut off from various insitutions for academic year 2006-07;

(b) whether after a massive inspection exercise, AICTE has decided to curtail intake due to inadequate infrastructure, faculty deficiency and violation of norms;

(c) whether, out of 4,224 technical education institutions in country, AICTE had inspected 3,270 institutions; and

(d) whether any final decision has been taken on reducing intakes in